

For Vision and Responsibility



MERA25

**Summary of the Policy
Programme**



The New MERA25 Policy Programme - Summary

Human dignity and economic justice, ecological change, social security, peace, open borders, a democratic Europe: none of these can exist without the others, and only with equal rights for all!

At our National Members Assembly on 30 November 2024 in Berlin, we launched a new basic programme that is not satisfied with half measures and lesser evils. A future worth living for all requires a break with the policies offered by the established parties and a declaration of war on the powerful in Brussels and Berlin. We are motivated, inspired and proud of what we have achieved so far such a small new party.

The core idea remains the same, but we have evolved. Specifically, we are calling for the following:

- Breaking the power of banks and lobbyists
- The [Green New Deal](#) from the grassroots: A democratic socio-ecological turnaround instead of greenwashing
- Abolish the debt brake, invest sustainably in public infrastructure, technological innovations and a sustainable society
- Socialising common goods
- Democracy in business: one person, one vote
- Combating extreme wealth concentration and taxing progressively
- A job guarantee in the public sector
- Unconditional Basic Income
- Data protection and digital self-determination
- An inclusive Europe with equal rights for all
- A peaceful, non-aligned Europe without NATO and geopolitical power games
- International law over national interest: Freedom for Palestine
- Legal, institutional and social approaches for a safe and diverse society
- An independent, united and democratic Europe of cities and regions

You can find out how we envisage this in the new [basic programme](#) and in this short version. Or even better, come to a local group meeting [near you](#)!

For Vision and Responsibility

The facts:

- It is getting hotter. The frequency of heavy rain, floods, droughts and forest fires is increasing. Our livelihoods are at risk.
- More and more people around the world are on the run, oppressed, persecuted and threatened.
- Germany is becoming militarised. Public discourse is dominated by war rhetoric and dissenting voices are ostracised. At the same time, foreign policy favours armament and scorns international law.

Those who are elected to take responsibility do not do so. They do not manage to implement effective improvements. Worse still, in many cases they become the hands of those who benefit most from injustice and environmental destruction.

All social and economic conditions are man-made. Consequently, they can also be changed by people. We are committed to doing this.

- We exist to fight for **social security**. Our plan guarantees all people a secure pension, access to affordable housing, access to excellent healthcare, a fair distribution of care work and the right to work.
- We exist to fight for a **Green New Deal**. With massive investments in an ecologically sustainable and future-proof economy, energy supply, mobility systems, the construction sector and agriculture, we want to create millions of good and secure jobs. Our goal is a climate-neutral society that is peaceful both internally and externally.
- We exist to fight for **peace and global justice**. We want to break the spiral of armament and surveillance, decriminalise migration, end the exploitation and oppression of the Global South and stand up for universal human rights.

In one sentence: **We fight for vision and responsibility.**

1. Investing: Shared Prosperity for the Many

Without massive government investment, there will be no energy and mobility transition, no secure pensions, no affordable housing, no reliable healthcare system - in short, no shared prosperity for the many. Politicians often claim that the problem is that we lack money. But that is wrong! **Money is not a scarce resource.**

Countries do not have to earn money in order to be able to spend it. On the contrary: states create the money they spend themselves. States that have their own currency are therefore not dependent on tax revenues for spending. We know that the really scarce resources are natural raw materials and people's labour and health. Preserving and developing these resources must not fail because of money.

The logical consequence: we reject the narrative of constantly empty treasuries! Specifically, we are therefore calling for **the abolition of the debt brake** and an **end to the European debt rules**. After all, government deficits are not an evil. They flow directly or via investments in infrastructure, education and the like into the pockets of citizens. Government spending is the wealth of the population.

We are facing major problems - and a shortage of money is not one of them. A **substantial increase in government spending** is urgently needed for social, environmental and economic reasons. The greatest waste is missing opportunities and leaving potential untapped. Major government programmes are needed to exploit our social opportunities. We can boldly achieve more together!

The blunt argument that government spending inevitably leads to inflation is wrong! The opposite is true: **intelligent government investment prevents inflation**. This is because such investments combat the housing shortage and property speculation, create a solid healthcare system and regional production that reduces dependence on global supply chains. Above all, a modern monetary policy aims to achieve price stability, full employment and the protection of our environment. All of these things not only make us richer as a society, but also more resilient and thus prevent crises and inflation.

Modern monetary policy means democratic monetary policy! We want to democratise the euro by placing **monetary policy entirely in the hands of elected parliaments**. We reject the prevailing neo-liberal, market-neutral paradigm of the European Central Bank. Monetary policy must be free of technocratic arbitrariness and aim for sustainability, social security and prosperity for all people of European.

We also call for the monetary union to be developed into a genuine fiscal union in order to finally restore the monetary sovereignty of the European Union and its member states. This means that we need a **European Ministry of Finance that has the power to create money, make expenditures, and levy taxes**.

States are not companies, they serve the people and not profit!

2. Ecology: The Green New Deal from the Grassroots

Our goal is a genuine Green New Deal. Through **massive investment in socio-ecological transformation**, we want to create secure, well-paid jobs and **climate neutrality by 2030 at the latest**. Nevertheless, the Green New Deal is not a programme for endless growth as an end in itself. We do not measure our success by indicators such as gross domestic product, but instead focus on what really matters: ecology, health, shared prosperity and self-determination. **Climate justice** means recognising that the cumulative greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have historically been caused predominantly by a few nation states, including Germany.

In order to reduce the destruction of ecosystems and the overexploitation of nature, we are in favour of **establishing a circular and regenerative economy**. In order to meet the climate targets, we want to immediately disclose and completely stop the subsidisation of fossil fuels. We need a rapidly increasing CO2 tax for industry. The CO2 tax is unsuitable for the private sector until alternatives in the areas of housing and mobility are available to everyone. We call for the introduction of a fundamental right to **self-sufficiency with renewable energies** and support the production of green hydrogen for applications for which there is currently no other option for decarbonisation.

We want to put regional energy suppliers and municipal utilities as well as the local infrastructure in the areas of electricity, gas and heat in the hands of citizens. Weather-related fluctuations in electricity production can balance out in a **regional and intelligently operated electricity grid**. The **supply of water**, as the most important foodstuff, must under no circumstances be subject to private commercial purposes.

Mobility is a fundamental right. That is why we want to ensure affordable, environmentally friendly, supra-regional, free and safe mobility for all without destroying our livelihoods. We are committed to environmentally friendly means of transport and an infrastructure that we use collectively and efficiently. We are in favour of reducing air traffic to the bare minimum and taxing kerosene. We want to enable more people to freely choose their place of work in order to reduce private transport and **enhance rural areas**. Regional supply networks such as farms with farm shops and the local production of important goods reduce long-distance transport and dependence on global supply chains.

Another important goal is a **building revolution** that enables sustainable and social living and working for all. In order to achieve the climate targets, we want to renovate and convert existing buildings on a large scale: ecologically, socially, in a way that promotes community, inclusively and creatively with new forms of construction and innovative, recyclable materials. We want to prioritise converting and adding storeys to buildings instead of building new ones.

Regenerative agriculture is a central component of our climate, biodiversity, water, nutrition, health and development policy. We want to take account of forgotten traditions and the latest innovations in farming. We want to **stop the concentration of land and corporate oligopolies** in the agricultural industry and food retail sector. **Factory farming** must end immediately in Germany.

Our Green New Deal aims to empower people to make their own decisions about the future of their communities. Investment decisions should therefore be made primarily at local and regional level. In order to promote cooperation and the exchange of experience in relation to the socio-ecological transformation between municipalities, regions, citizens and farmers, we want to establish a **Europe-wide socio-ecological city network**.

3. Social security: Guaranteeing a First-Class Social Security System

Our goal is to guarantee everyone a first-class, future-proof social system that supports people in organising their lives without generating profits. This means pensions, housing, health, care, equality and work - all of this must be for the people, not for individual billionaires. Our aim is to take away people's fear of old age, homelessness, poverty and illness. At the moment, however, our welfare system is not doing this - on the contrary. Instead of acting with foresight, it fights symptoms. We are therefore in favour of a **complete overhaul of our social system**, with guaranteed first-class care and social security for all. Above all, by largely removing the areas of pensions, housing and health from the destructive market. The profit motive is fundamentally opposed to our vision of a first-class, future-proof social system. Instead, we want to publicly provide and guarantee social security.

Specifically, we demand:

- A state pension guarantee to finally abolish poverty in old age
- Expropriating large housing groups to make housing affordable again
- Land in the hands of the general public
- People-oriented healthcare instead of profits for a few super-rich individuals

We also want to **abolish child poverty** by introducing a basic child benefit that really deserves its name. This will put an end to bureaucracy and harassment and offer every child in this country a dignified life.

A social society in which cohesion is a priority also includes a fair distribution of labour.

Especially in times of increasingly frequent crises, the state must guarantee security for people and the economy. That is why we are calling for a fundamental rethink when it comes to labour. We want to end involuntary unemployment by introducing a **voluntary, state job guarantee**. This should create meaningful and well-paid jobs that every citizen can take up voluntarily if they fall into unemployment. We reject the harassment in the job centre!

We want to use automation and AI to gradually reduce the statutory maximum working hours from 40 to **30 hours per week** instead of wilfully destroying jobs. We want to support companies in this transformation with state aid.

4. Commons: Democratising Social Property

Everyone has the right to a dignified and free life with unrestricted social participation, and we want democracy in all areas of life. To make this possible, we are in favour of **the introduction of a European unconditional basic dividend**. It will be distributed annually from a fund consisting of assets, taxes on company profits and income from patent rights based on public funding. Such a basic dividend is the first step towards an **unconditional basic income**.

Central areas of society such as the banking system or the internet should belong to all of us. We want to develop public alternatives to the existing financial and digital oligopolies. In the mid-term, public banks, above all a European People's Bank, should take over traditional financial services completely. We also want central bank money in the form of a **digital euro** to be available not only to banks and states, but also to be available to Europe's citizens and companies without having to go through private banks. We demand that private banks should no longer be allowed to participate in speculative transactions, but instead focus on granting loans. In order to ensure **responsible lending**, loans granted should not be allowed to be resold, but must remain on the bank's balance sheet. We want to **break the market power of asset managers** such as Blackrock by setting a maximum limit of assets under management per company and prohibit those who exceed this limit from accessing German and European financial markets.

We see the **Internet as part of basic public services**. Our goal therefore to socialise and improve the existing network infrastructure in Germany. We advocate that all citizens be provided with a free data allowance in a publicly operated cloud storage (Data Commons) on a voluntary opt-in basis. We want users to have **maximum control over their personal data**. Users should be able to interact with online platforms without permanently handing over their data to them.

We also want to promote and protect **common goods such as education and culture**. We aim to minimise the influence of social background on educational success and create a Nationwide offer of **all-day schools** (including free meals). Education and training must be completely free of charge. We strive for **uniform educational standards** and the widespread recognition of qualifications: within Germany and, in the future, across Europe. We want to expand further education programmes for all age groups, especially in the context of digitalisation. Education should contribute to promoting a humanistic perspective. In particular, history must be critically and internationally analysed to better highlight the ongoing impacts of imperialism and colonialism. Culture and art are a basic human need and are indispensable for an open, democratic society. They must be accessible to all social groups regardless of social, economic or geographical background. We see increased cultural exchange as a way of developing a global culture of peace.

Free and independent media are an essential prerequisite for a democratic society. In order to prevent a monopoly-like concentration of media in the hands of a few corporations, we are calling for clear rules on the unbundling of media ownership. **Public service broadcasting** is a central pillar of our democratic society and must operate independently of economic and political interests. In order to make knowledge and information accessible to all, we want to ensure that media content financed with public funds is published **under free licences and without geo-blocking**.

5. Democracy: One Person, One Vote

There is a neo-feudal development worldwide - including in Germany and Europe. A few people control a large part of our lives. With their financial and economic power, fuelled by technological progress, they set their own rules. We are fighting against this development. Our goal: **one person, one vote**. We want to achieve this goal by democratising companies, reducing extreme inequality, protecting self-determination, including in the digital space, preventing monopolies and oligopolies and combating lobbyism.

It is not shareholders who create value, but a company's employees. Moreover, working people spend a third of their entire time at their workplace. Despite this, they hardly have a say in decision-making. If we think democracy is good for our state, then we must also think it is good for our companies; or we are not true democrats! It should therefore be the employees who make key decisions, for example the choice of management, the distribution of funds and other fundamental decisions that affect the future of the employees and the company. For small and medium-sized companies, we want to encourage, accompany and support them in their democratic transformation. In the long term, **democratic companies** should become the established norm.

It is also clear to us that **every billionaire is a policy failure**. Billionaires and multimillionaires reflect a system in which the performance and productivity of the many is not fairly rewarded and distributed, but flows into the pockets of the few. This leads to power imbalances and dependency relationships that we as democrats reject. This is because the extreme concentration of wealth is undemocratic and jeopardises democracy. That is why we need a tax policy that finally combats the unacceptable wealth and income inequality in our society. This means low taxes for the many who have little and high taxes for the few who have a lot. We therefore demand, among other things, the **abolition of the unjust value-added tax** and a reform of inheritance tax that guarantees tax exemption for the wealthy and makes the rich pay.

Every democracy must be based on the principle of "one person, one vote". We want to expose and combat the rampant influence of the German, European and global oligarchy and its lobbyists. We demand a strict and efficient **fight against corruption** in the EU institutions. Lobbyists from multinational corporations should be banned from parliaments. They must be driven out of Berlin and Brussels.

Democracy also means self-determination. This also applies to the digital space and the internet. **Self-determination over one's own data is a fundamental right.** Large corporations must not be allowed to use our data against us. To achieve this, new, modern education programmes are also needed to promote media literacy and technological proficiency among companies and citizens. We should shape our digital future in Europe instead of making ourselves dependent on large Chinese or US companies. This is also the basis for genuine democratic coexistence!

Freedom of the press is the backbone of a democratic society. Journalists and whistleblowers monitor the powerful and expose misconduct and abuse of power. We want to protect them and their work - in Germany, Europe and worldwide. We are committed to a **diverse media landscape** and want to counter the increasing oligopolisation of media. We want to make access to diverse media as low-threshold as possible. This also means that we want to preserve and develop public service broadcasting.

In order to be able to participate in our democracy, the citizens of our country need security. The Federal Republic of Germany is not yet a country in which everyone can feel safe. We emphasise and support the need of all people for a **life in safety while respecting human rights.** Openness and a willingness to help those seeking protection are self-evident in view of Germany's history. A peaceful and trusting coexistence of all people is the basis for prosperity and our primary goal. We firmly oppose fundamentalist and fascist endeavours and misanthropy.

6. International: For a New Peace Movement

We want Germany to be a peaceful, open and safe country for everyone. We see Europe as a place for peace and progress. For us, global justice and internationalism are the basis for our survival.

Safeguarding human rights for all is of central importance. We cannot accept that thousands of people drown in the Mediterranean every year and that non-governmental organisations are punished for their life-saving missions with criminalisation and restrictions on missions. Frontex is part of the problem and not the solution. We want to **abolish Frontex** and use the agency's resources to launch a European search and rescue mission in the Mediterranean. We want to **stop the externalisation of EU borders** and **end** the so-called "**hotspot system**". The detention of immigrants in closed reception centres must stop. We are against differentiating between so-called "political" and "economic" migrants and want to create a common European asylum procedure that respects international and European law and guarantees the fundamental rights of migrants. We want to stop deportations. In principle, every person must have the right to move freely on this planet.

We are in favour of a peace-oriented reorganisation of European foreign and security policy towards regional independence and **non-alignment**. We want to build a **pan-European security architecture** and thus **make NATO superfluous**. We do not consider threatening policies in any form to be sustainable. This also applies to so-called nuclear deterrence. Germany can show courage by renouncing its nuclear sharing with NATO framework and joining the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**.

Furthermore, the existence of military bases and weapons systems in Europe that are not under European command is not conducive to a self-determined defence policy and poses a security risk. The core objectives of this new security architecture should be **joint disarmament** and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. We aim to equip military forces in such a way that they are not perceived as a threat either internally or externally, and are oriented towards defence with the latest state-of-the-art technology. In order to shift towards **diplomatic conflict resolution** as the highest priority, the influence of **arms corporations** over decisions in Berlin and Brussels must be broken.

be broken. We are calling for the complete withdrawal of the arms industry from the German export economy.

The daily lives of billions of people on this planet are shaped by exploitation. We recognise our historical responsibility in this and know that our actions have contributed to the climate crisis and environmental degradation. We want a paradigm shift in development cooperation that leaves behind the racist narrative of donor and recipient states. International funds should instead be understood as **reparations for colonial crimes** and for addressing significant responsibility for the climate crisis. In **agriculture**, the greed for profit of a few is destroying the diversity of life on our planet and causing people to starve. We want to **restructure world trade**. Regional production should be promoted in order to shorten transport routes.

Due to its historical responsibility for the crimes of the Nazi era, including the Holocaust, Germany has a special role to play in the international community. To address this, a **realignment of Israel-Palestine policy** is long overdue. Through its political, diplomatic and military support, German policy shares responsibility for the genocide of the Palestinians. As a minimum requirement, Germany must immediately adapt its foreign policy to international law standards, including an arms embargo against Israel. A humane future for all residents of the region of historical Palestine and of those who have fled since the Nakba in 1948 is only possible without apartheid and illegal occupation.

Due to the enormous imbalance of power and resources in its substance and structures, the **United Nations** is unable to fulfil its original function of establishing peace. The UN Security Council is outdated and undemocratic. In its place, we propose a democratically elected body made up of representatives of the world's regions or continents, which also reflects the demographic weight of the countries and regions. We also want to work towards an independent **international jurisdiction in** order to end the persistent impunity of states and non-state actors, such as business corporations, for human rights violations and war crimes.

7. Diverse Society: Combating Discrimination and Misanthropy

We aim to achieve and maintain an open, diverse society. We consider diversity as an opportunity that should be allowed to flourish. To ensure this, we want to guarantee **participation in all areas of life** for all people. **Combating and reducing discrimination** in Germany is of central importance for a just and inclusive society. In doing so, we look at structural causes such as the historically deep-rooted link between capitalism and racism.

Our most important goals are

- Preventing structural disadvantages
- Guaranteeing participation and co-determination for all
- Achieving full gender equality in all areas public and private life
- Abolishing racist social structures
- Combating anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim racism and all forms of discrimination based on religion
- Ensuring self-determination for LGBTQIA+
- Promoting accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities

We are committed to greater inclusion and self-determination in a wide range of areas. For example, we want to extend the Equal Treatment Act and support the replacement of the long-outdated concept of "race" in the German Basic Law. A holistic approach to a diverse society free of discrimination and racism also includes specific issues such as closing the gender pay gap (difference in earnings between men and women), ensuring the employment of disabled people and safeguarding the rights of homeless people. A person's gender identity must be self-determined. We want to make any changes to gender details in public documents uncomplicated. We want to end discrimination against LGBTQIA+ parents in the joint exercise of child custody rights and recognise the parenthood of same-sex couples. To improve the rights of stateless people, we want to advance the implementation of international agreements on statelessness in Germany.

In order to create an anti-racist, anti-discriminatory and democratic policy and society, we aim to better include groups with discrimination experiences in democratic processes and advocate for more **critical anti-racism education in schools and youth work**. We want to reduce racist stereotyping in the media and promote the inclusion of people who have experienced discrimination in broadcasting councils. We are firmly committed to prevention and raising awareness, as well as the consistent and uncompromising prosecution of **violence and discrimination by security authorities** such as the police, customs and intelligence services. We also call for the complete **abolition of the practice of racial profiling** (checking people on the basis of their external appearance).

The goal of an equal and emancipated society requires not only laws and institutions, but also

civic engagement. To this end, existing structures such as associations and NGOs must be strengthened. We want to make low-threshold and free counselling services available to victims of discrimination and their families. For a **living culture of remembrance**, there should, among other options, be a memorial service on November 4th for the victims of the National Socialist Underground (NSU) murders.

8. Europe and Its Constitution

Today's EU is profoundly undemocratic. It is not parliaments that determine the course of European politics, but an unelected Brussels elite of neoliberal technocrats, bankers and economic oligarchs as well as thousands of lobbyists. Europe must be democratised or it will disintegrate.

Wherever power is concentrated, even through elections, it and its holders must be democratically held accountable - from the bottom up. To exercise their rights, citizens need democratically effective control mechanisms for all essential areas such as currency, finance, labour, migration and environmental policies. In order for the political system to involve citizens more effectively, we aim to establish a **new fourth branch of government** based on the concept of deliberative democracy, consisting of randomly selected citizen councils – **the Consultative** – mandatorily embedded at all administrative levels in the **European Constitution**. To protect the fundamental rights of European citizens at all levels of government and in all locations across Europe, we advocate for a unified **Charter of Fundamental Rights**. We want to expand European Union citizenship into a genuine, non-forfeitable European citizenship. We want to enable people without German citizenship who have been registered in Germany for more than one year to participate in all elections in Germany. European elections must be democratised by abolishing the distribution of seats by country according to degressive electoral law and introducing European party lists through which candidates can be elected to the EU Parliament.

We want more Europe, not less. Europe needs a constitution. It is the central legal basis for the construction of the **European Republic**, its internal organisation, relations with other states and the rights and duties of its citizens. We want to strengthen **the ability of municipalities and regions to act** and protect their subsidiary autonomy in a united Europe. In order to be able to bring their concerns to the EU Commission and help shape them, representatives of the cities and regions are delegated to the EU Commission by lot and at fixed intervals. The balance of power between the EU Parliament and the EU Commission is also out of kilter. The elected parliament must be more power and decision-making competences. The EU's decision-making processes must be made absolutely transparent for EU citizens. Government data and documents must be publicly accessible - machine-readable and with open interfaces.

The main power in the European Republic comes from its citizens. They are the foundation of the future of Europe. They find solutions to common challenges in popular assemblies. Cities and regions are the direct living environment of the people. This is where citizens must be able to help shape their own future. Nation-states as we know them, now only have a mediating function.

MERA25: Left-wing Politics for Peace, Solidarity and Freedom!

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